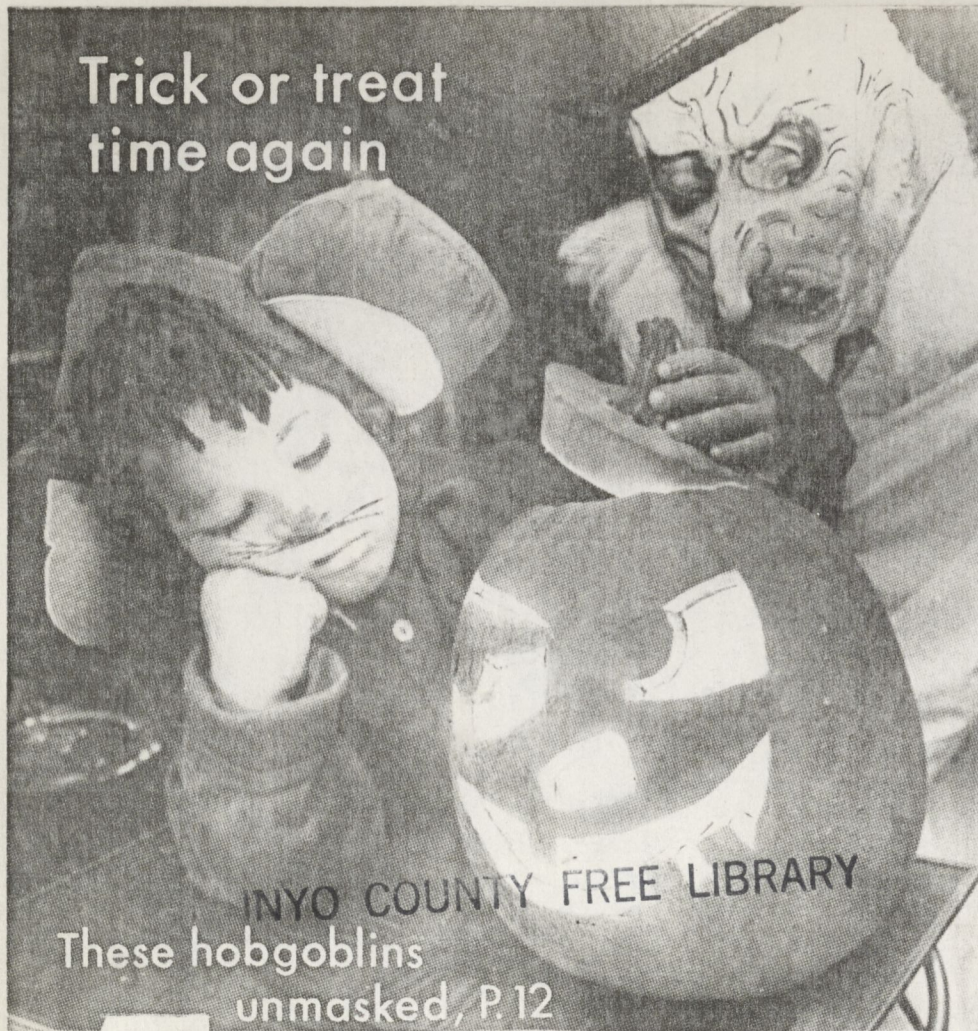


Trick or treat
time again



INYO COUNTY FREE LIBRARY
These hobgoblins
unmasked, P.12

FORUM

NEW SANATORIUM ISSUE P.16

AUTOMATED

MOVIES FOTO-STORY P.4

B.K.'s COLUMN

A NEW DISCO IN TOWN P.17

BIG PINE PARADE

WARRIOR HIGH-JINX P.18

"BEATING" CHARGE

Officers Cleared

INVESTIGATION SHOWS "NO
SUPPORT" FOR DISCIPLINARY
ACTION AGAINST DEPUTIES

SO FAR, LITTLE OR NOTHING is known publicly about just what occurred several weeks ago when two Inyo deputies entered a Lone Pine house where a teen-age party was taking place, and later filed charges against a number of participants; all anybody, except for an investigator, has on the story is the word of the teenagers and the parents involved. The deputies were advised early in the ensuing community-wide controversy to remain silent about the accusations of "beating" and "brutality" thrown their way. But this week, the con-

THE Inyo County News-Letter

Oct. 27
1978

60¢

Compiled by
John Heston,
Benett Kessler

A NEWS ALTERNATIVE ♦ EASTERN SIERRA NEWS SERVICE

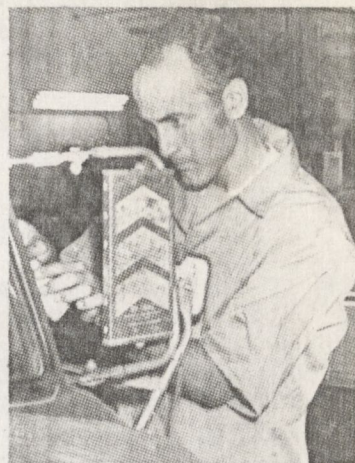
The COUNTY

News Briefs

TELLING IT LIKE IT IS AT "CANDIDATE'S NIGHT"; BLM BRUHAHA AND AN OVERSTOCKED BEER SUPPLY AT OLANCHA; REVISITING THE CONCENTRATION CAMP WITH A CLEAN-UP PLAN; AND QUESTIONNAIRES ABOUT COUNTY MORALE

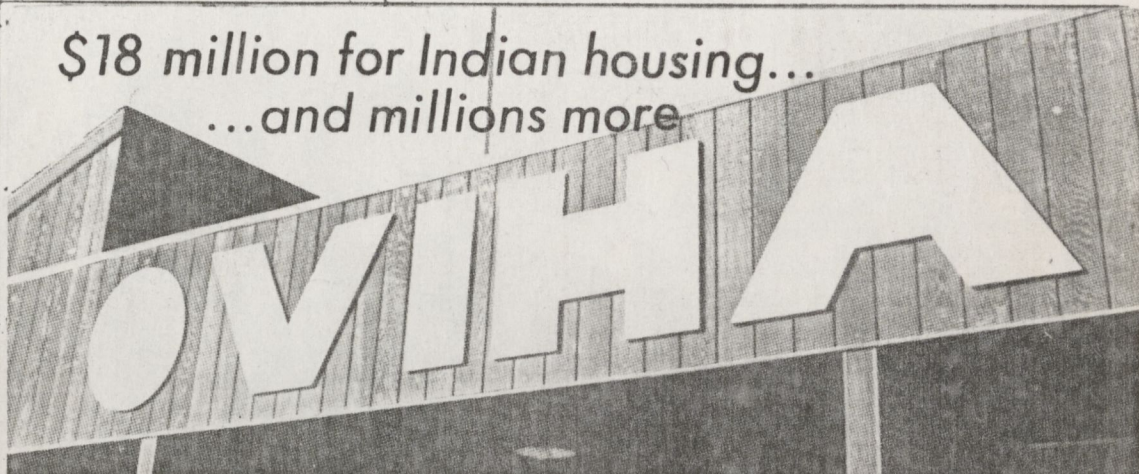
INYO'S ASPIRANTS TO HIGH AND PRESTIGIOUS OFFICE held forth again this week - this time at the bidding of the League of Women Voters who provided, once more, a hustings under the name of "candidate's night." Nearly everybody was there, but clearly dominating the proceeding was the host of issues - and charges - involving the candidates of the Third Supervisorial District race. Two contenders who tied in the June election are up against Incumbent Wilma Muth whose off-the-wall comments this week fascinated the attendants upon the league's "candidate's night." According to *News-Letter* Correspondent Emilie Martin, Muth lashed out unrestrainedly against what she (Muth) called charges of conflict of interest raised by her opponents. Muth allowed as how one of the opponents, Moe Jacobson, is finance drive chairman of the League of Women Voters, and a further implication that League President Cindy O'Connor herself may have a conflict of (NEWS BRIEFS on Page 2)

out the accusations of "beating" and "brutality" thrown their way. But this week, the con-



Inyo Deputies Clyde George and Tom Gonzales controversy became irrelevant. At the end of a lengthy "outside" investigation conducted by the Department of Justice, Sheriff Floyd Bar- (See DEPUTIES on Page 13)

\$18 million for Indian housing...
...and millions more



Government funds pouring into the Inyo reservations. Story, Page 8



Another elk-lift from Inyo



Wolfgang Obst
Elk-lift moviemaking

Again, the Owens Valley Tule Elk herd had grown predictably beyond its legal size limit, and the Fish & Game Department began once more its costly and arduous effort to transport - live - 25 elk to another, less-crowded range. Meanwhile, the Tule Elk issue continues to cause headaches for all concerned; the balance between a no-kill law pushed by conservationists, and a need for space for the fast-breeding elk. A national sports magazine is sponsoring a television film for the current project - and last week's effort was well-covered by the media.

NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

interest in that her husband is a developer.

Then, according to the report filed early today (Friday), Muth turned on the county government that she has helped direct during this, her first, term in office. She said, among other things, that county government has weak management, "inefficient control" and inefficient personnel methods (as evidenced certainly by the county administration's recent hiring-firing fiascos, although she did not say so), and even petty graft among employees.

Muth alluded to "incompetent personnel" being shifted around county offices. But when pressed for answers as to why the supervisors had not themselves corrected the problems, Muth said that "We are in the throes of change and Proposition 13 is a tool to analyze it all."

She explained to Reporter Martin that the allusion to "petty graft" had to do with "abuse of the use of county cars," telephone usage and "pencil theft."

A more low-keyed talk was made by one

co-supervisor, Herbert London. But he, too, referred to the "state of change" in county government. He warned that such change will not be accomplished "quickly."

One of Muth's opponents, Moe Jacobson, had earlier zeroed in on a few of what he thought to be Muth's weaknesses in the race. He called attention to the county's road expenditures in West Bishop, implying but not stating favoritism in that area. He also mentioned a county expenditure for "a bridge that goes nowhere" and cost \$100,000, "while other needs were not filled." It has been Jacobson that has conducted an advertising campaign about "conflicts of interest" involving the other two candidates.

And the third candidate in that troubled race, Roger Glidden, held his remarks to answering the questions put to the candidates by a League questionnaire: How about funds lost to Proposition 13 restrictions? In that, Glidden suggested that "more efficiency" in county

(NEWS BRIEFS continued, P. 3)



After a court decision that denied Inyo County's request for an injunction, the Department of Water and Power wasted no time in resuming its installation of water meters. One of the first on DWP's list was this one to be installed at Independence - at a house occupied by a planning commission worker, Randy Pestor. It was Pestor who got figures showing Inyoans use no more water than people in Los Angeles.

Photo: John Heston

NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

government could save more than enough to make up for dollars lost in tax reduction. He said the reason why Proposition 13 passed was because of voters' wishes along those lines.

Another "efficiency" platform was raised by District One Supervisorial Candidate, H.B. "Lefty" Irwin, London's opponent, who for years has been associated with the controversial Property Owners Association at Bishop. Irwin expressed concern over present county efficiency, and he also defended his proposal to assign individual supervisors to the responsibility over various county departments. In that plan he would give each supervisor the direction of one or more specific departments and programs.

ANOTHER BROUHAHA WITH THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT turned up last week in a surprising place - the community of Olancho. There, at least one local merchant had invested heavily in extra stocks of beer and drinks in anticipation of the arrival of herds of motorcyclists that later, as it turned out, failed to materialize. It seems that a Moto-cross race sponsored by the members of a San Diego club had been planned for a desert area near Olancho, but it was cancelled without notice by the Bureau of Land Management - even after a number of entrants were already on their way here from out of state. Olancho Merchant Monte Stevens said club members had called ahead asking him to "stock up" on picnic and refreshment goods, which he did. A BLM spokesman, once more under the gun, defended BLM's action: Glenn Harris of BLM's Ridgecrest office, said that in fact his office did issue a permit to the desert racers, "but with certain stipulations" including further written permission from the state government which owns some of the land that the proposed race course covers. Harris said that in the past there has been no such pressure to get "written permission" for such events, but that there has been a recent effort at "tightening regulations." He said the environmentalists were "upset about us having any kind of event in that area," and not BLM. "In our experience, there has been no real damage there," he said.

BUT IF THE OLANCHO DESERT AREA REMAINED BEREFT of human activity, another area may well come to life - and perhaps with just about as much controversy. This past week a plan to revive



Wayward bus



Its brakes out, a busful of Santa Barbara City College students careened down treacherous Rock Creek Road, finally lurching to a halt off the highway. Twenty-one of them were injured, two suffering fractures. The youths had been on a geology trip in Mono.

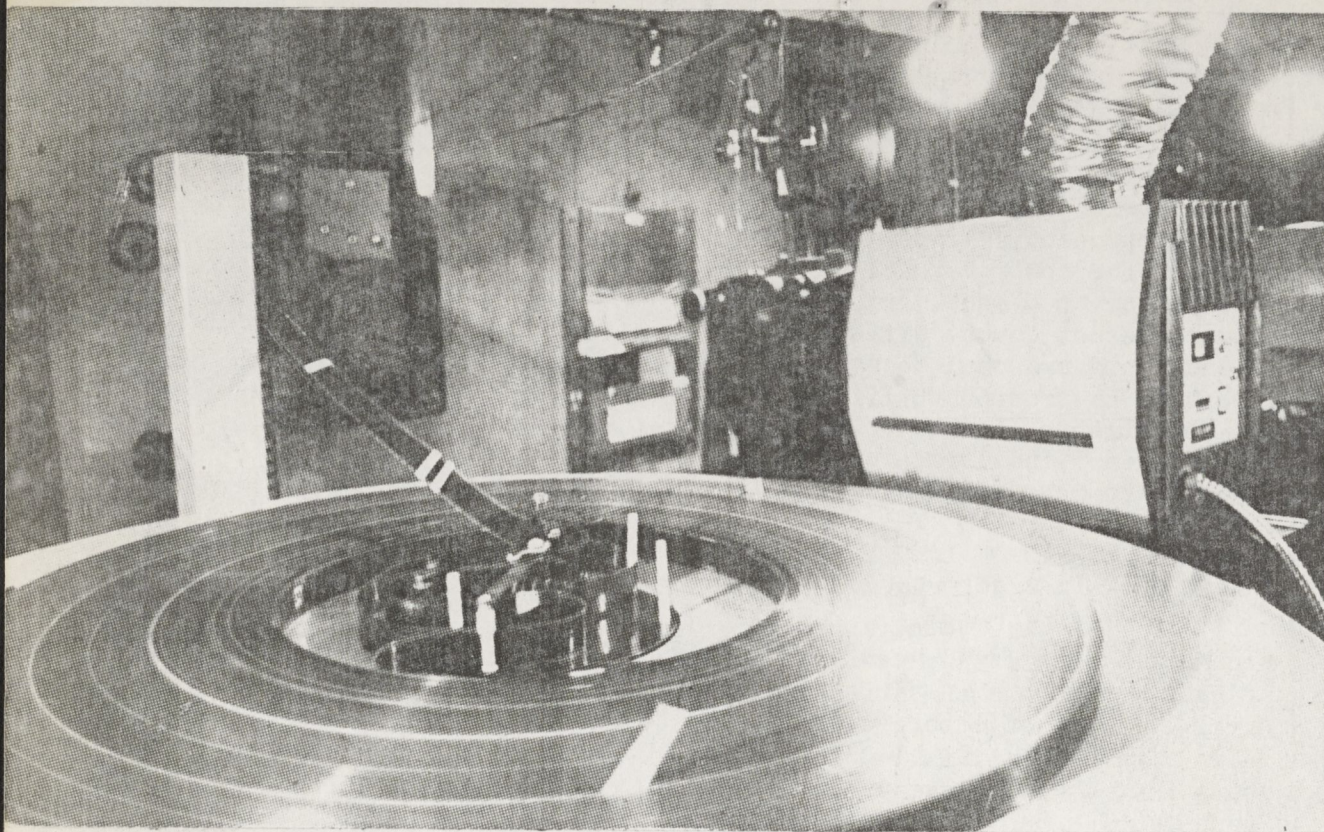
Photo: Emilie Martin

the old Manzanar concentration camp was dawning ever more clearly in the minds of Inyoans. It seems that the State Department of Parks and Recreation has turned up with the idea to clean up the old World War II camp, or perhaps even to restore it, buildings and all, as an historic site. Reactions to the sudden plan were mixed. A News-Letter reporter at Lone Pine, Frank Burns, attended a hearing (More NEWS BRIEFS, Page 13)



Keeping them honest on 395

Long lines of cars form in two lanes of Highway 395. They ride bumper-to-bumper. Ahead, as passing cars quickly find out, is a Highway Patrolman - moving at a legal 55-mile speed. Californians have not yet accepted the new limit, and in Inyo County "about 300-350" citations for speeding are written each month. But the presence of a patrol car keeps them at an honest 55.



This is a double-feature movie running itself in an unmanned projection booth at Bishop; it is all automatic

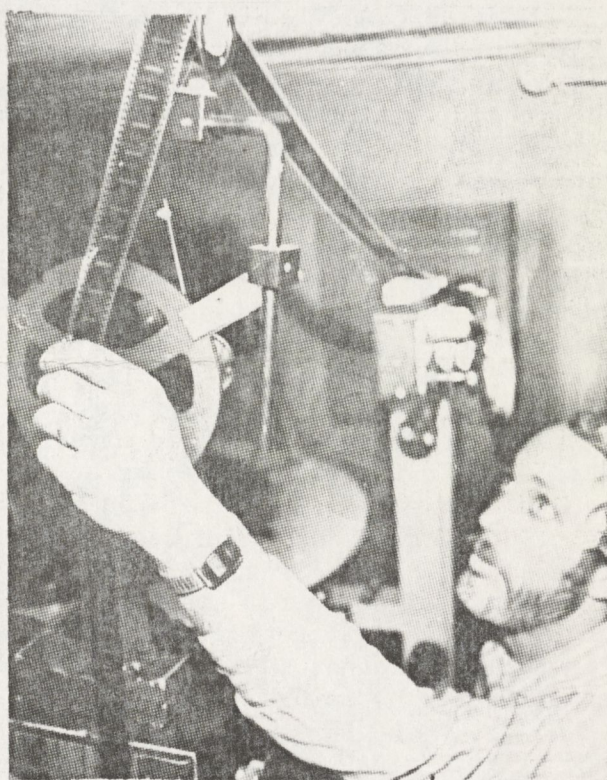
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This reel, or "platter," holds two movies which feed into two projectors

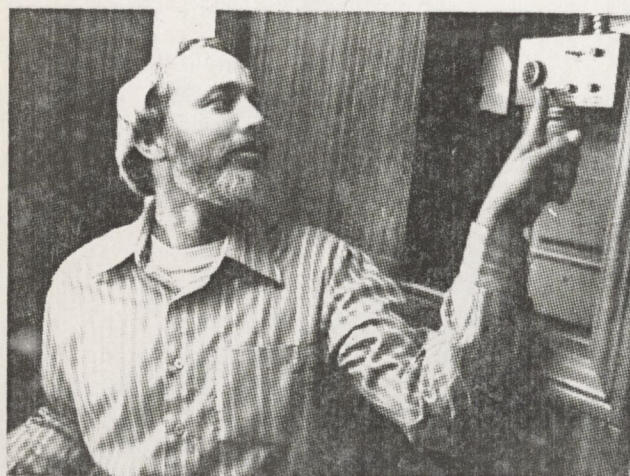
New tricks for the flicks

"PLATTERS" OF FILM WOUND OFF OF STUDIO RELEASES FEED THE PROJECTORS, CONTROL LIGHTS AND CURTAIN AND EVEN PLAY MUSIC FOR BISHOP MOVIE AUDIENCES

The old arc lights are gone and so is "the man upstairs" who ran the projectors and heard the stomping, whistling protests of movie-goers suddenly staring at a blank screen or running silently before their eyes. Automation has come to the movies - along with multi-tracked high fidelity sound - and things are looking better and sounding better. At Bishop's single movie house, one of only two movies between Ridgecrest and the Nevada line, it's all part of an extensive improvement program begun when Blair Hilborn took over the theater some months ago. Now that the films are running smoothly and most of the noisy kids are under better control, "business is good," said Hilborn. His next step in the improvement project will be the upholstering of the theater seats, a task he will undertake himself.

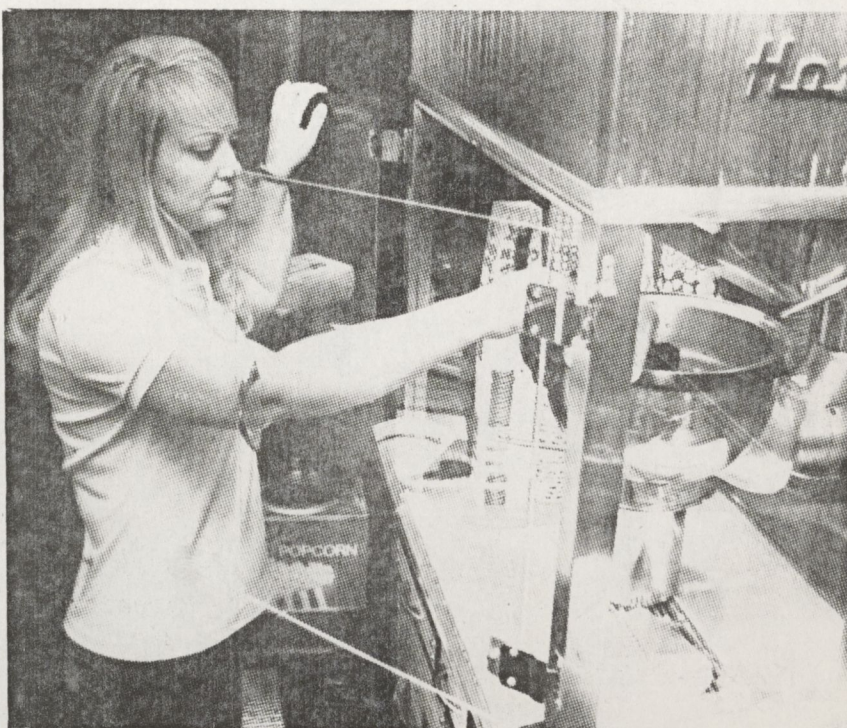


Hilborn threads the film....



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AWARE THAT WE NEED A CHANGE - BUT ALSO
WE NEED *EXPERIENCE IN GOVERNMENT.*

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FOR SUPERVISOR,
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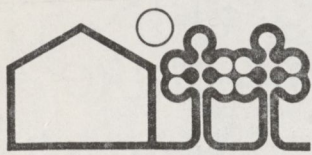
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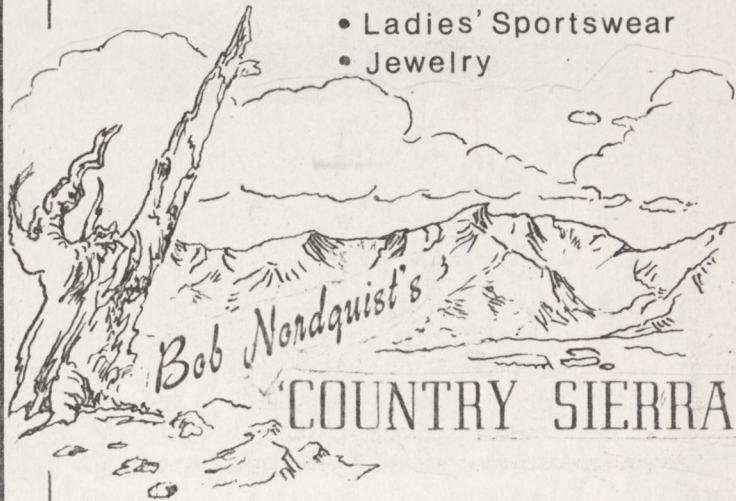
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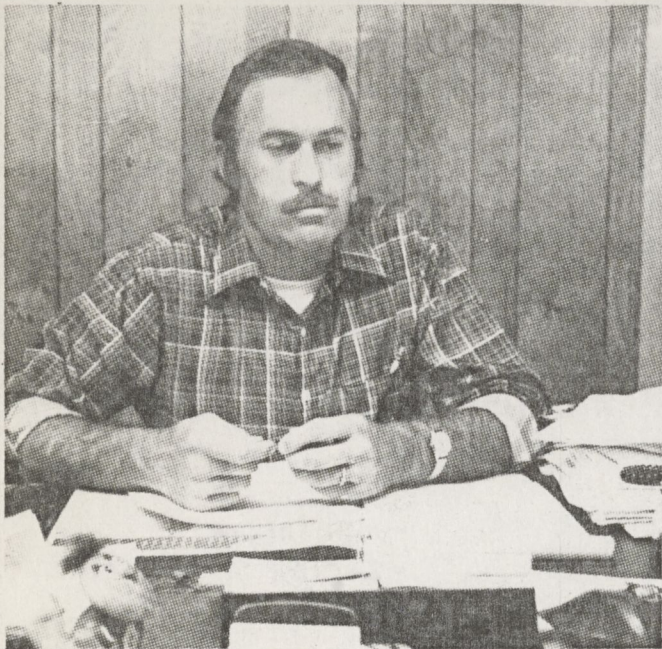
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HERBERT LONDON

**SUPERVISOR,
DISTRICT 1**



OVIHA's Director Bob Vance
How much HUD money? "A bunch...a bunch"

Housing dollars and a hefty share of government grants and programs make Indian administration big business here

MILLIONS IN AID FOR INYO'S RESERVATIONS, BUT MANY OF THE OLD PROBLEMS PERSIST: LACK OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES; LAGGING INTEREST IN EDUCATION; ALCOHOLISM; AND ONGOING RACISM

NOW THAT REAL HELP IS FLOWING, "AN EMBARRASSMENT OF RICHES"

FUNDING AGENCIES AT COUNTY, STATE AND FEDERAL LEVELS CURRENTLY PUMP upwards of \$25 million dollars into the various aid programs for Indian tribes in the Owens Valley. Lion's share of the staggering figure comes from the federal Housing and Urban Development program, or "HUD," and it accounts for \$18 million to be spent through 1980 on 357 houses now under construction, completed or planned. The rest (rough estimates only are given here) comes in the form of grants for various educational, health, career studies programs, and for direct help in the form of welfare.

"Administering" such amounts has become of itself big business in Inyo County and, outside of the Owens Valley Housing Authority (OVIHA), the administrators are as close-mouthed about what they are doing, what they are spending, and toward what ends the money is spent, as a group of corporate executives cloistered secretly in an executive suite. Presumably, they see the bonanza as an embarrassment of riches and - now that real help is flowing for their tribesmen - they are reluctant to make waves by calling too much attention to it. However, the funds they administer are tax monies and the records are available for anyone willing to take a hard look.

Based on the best figures available, the various programs of federal and state agencies - not to mention local county expenditures for Indian aid - have committed an average of more than \$12,000 per tribal member over the next two years. But here again, figures are hard to come by, the Indian leaders being notably reluctant to reveal accurate tribal census figures. Some say there are about 2000 Indians in Inyo area tribes (the figure used to project the "average" expenditure); others claim only about 1700 live in the area.

Outside of OVIHA (a separate, government-administered agency based at Big Pine on Hwy. 395), there are several "administrative" bodies organized in a complex milieu of hierarchies and authorities that makes

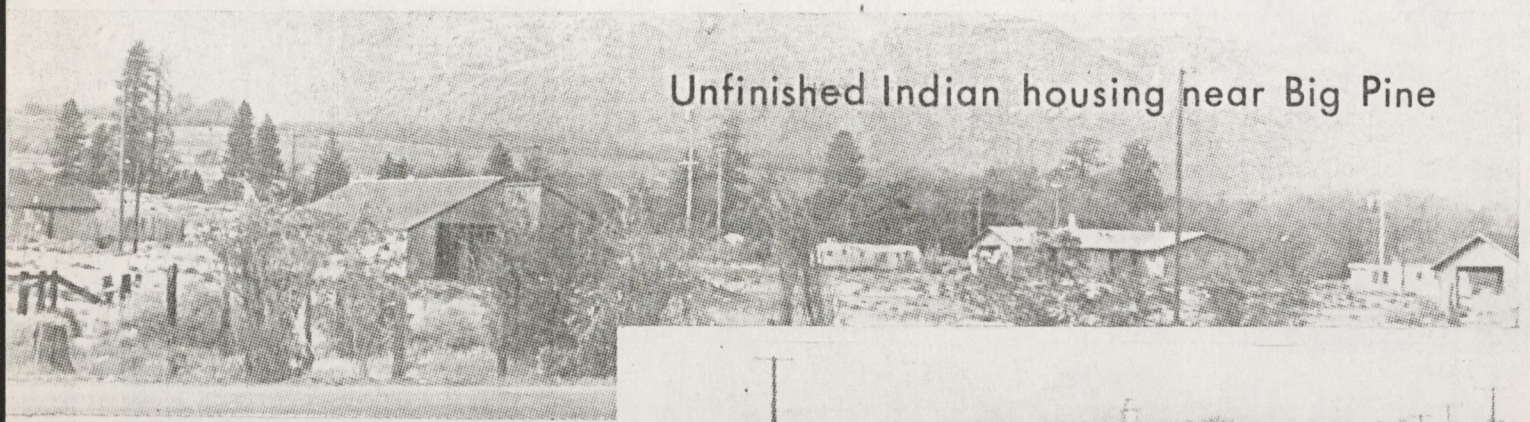


Judith Kinney

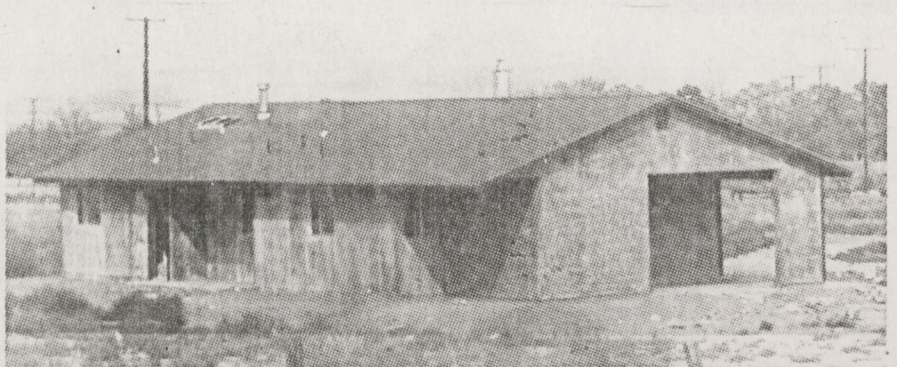


Clarisse Harris

Unfinished Indian housing near Big Pine



Eventually, 357 houses will be built on Inyo reservations. Construction continues, but the projects have been beset by labor shortages. Harshbarger Construction Company is required by contract to hire at least 35% Indian labor, but hires far more.



Tribal board won't reveal how much is involved or how it is spent

"...A PRIVATE SIGNAL
SYSTEM FAR BEYOND THE
AWARENESS OF OUTSIDERS"



Inter-tribal Board Chairman Delfino Sanchez
"I don't think the board would want to say how much"

difficult any effort to determine who's in charge of any specific area of activity; that is not to say, however, that the Indians' organizational setup is either inefficient or overly-bureaucratic; the subtle command and power posts are perhaps deliberately low-key, low-profile, and they function with a private signal system far beyond the awareness of the anglo "outsider." The various authorities usually begin with individual tribes - these at Lone Pine, Independence, Big Pine and Bishop - and each of these entities is represented on a broader authority, the Owens Valley Inter-Tribal Board of Trustees. The latter has authority in managing grants-in-aid, etc., but also involved is an administrator, or executive director of planning (Ed Wienecke, pictured below), who functions in a kind of "overseer" position.

Contacted about Indian projects and money currently under direction of the Inter-Tribal board, its chairman, Delfino Sanchez, told inquirants that a written request for such information would have to be taken up by the board. The requested letter was presented and the board - as expected - turned it down, and Sanchez said later that "The board decided not to contribute anything to the news story. The figures are a matter of public record."

And so they are. Records show that since March, about \$3½ million dollars in grants and various programs have been earmarked for native American use in this area - under the administration of the Inter-Tribal board. There is, however, no immediately available information, or breakdown, on where the money goes, or how it is administered. If money is in fact power, then the board has it.

Sanchez was not reluctant, however, to list broadly some of the current Owens Valley Indian programs. Among these are a health program and clinic, a career development program, a "police liaison"

project, and several lesser activities. And then there is administration itself; the various funding programs need administration for disbursement - and that fact alone means a number of jobs for the Indian community - most of these in administrative offices at Bishop and at Big Pine.

Last week, Sanchez talked more or less freely about "the Indian condition" in the Owens Valley. What, he was asked, is the Indians' single biggest problem?

"You walk down Main Street," he said. "How many Indians do you see working in the shops and the stores? There are no Indians working there, so we must create jobs." In his view, the various funded programs should provide not only the specified services but also jobs for tribal members. Sanchez called the Indian condition here "a depressed one."

It was learned that much of the \$3½ million grant funds went toward the modern office complexes at Bishop, and also the Indian cultural center. About \$330,000 has also been set for further investment in an Indian campground project that has languished near Independence for the past three years. What happened to that project is as yet unexplained. About two structures were built, a tank was constructed to provide water, then

(See INDIANS, continued on P 12)



The board's Executive Director Ed Wienecke
"For those figures, I guess you'd better check with the board"

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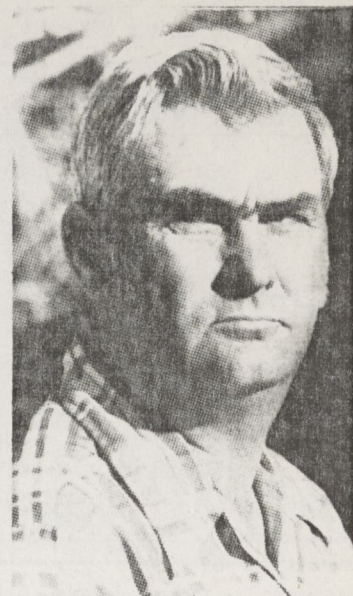
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"Free" fire and rescue service

Rescue squad at Independence dutifully makes still another call to an address on the Fort Independence reservation. In spite of new housing and the shot-in-the-arm input of money into the Indian economy, the reservations pay a grand sum total of less than \$2000 in county taxes. But fire, police and rescue services must go on. Some reservations received grant money to help support fire-fighting organizations, but at Independence the volunteers saw a cut of \$4700 in their budget, thanks to passage of the Jarvis amendment. Fire Commissioner Tom Poole, at right, and other commissioners talked last week with OVIHA officials to ask for aid. The Independence volunteers are called to the reservation "on an average of more than once a month" to deal with alcoholics injured in falls and fights.

Photos:
John
Heston

INDIANS, Continued

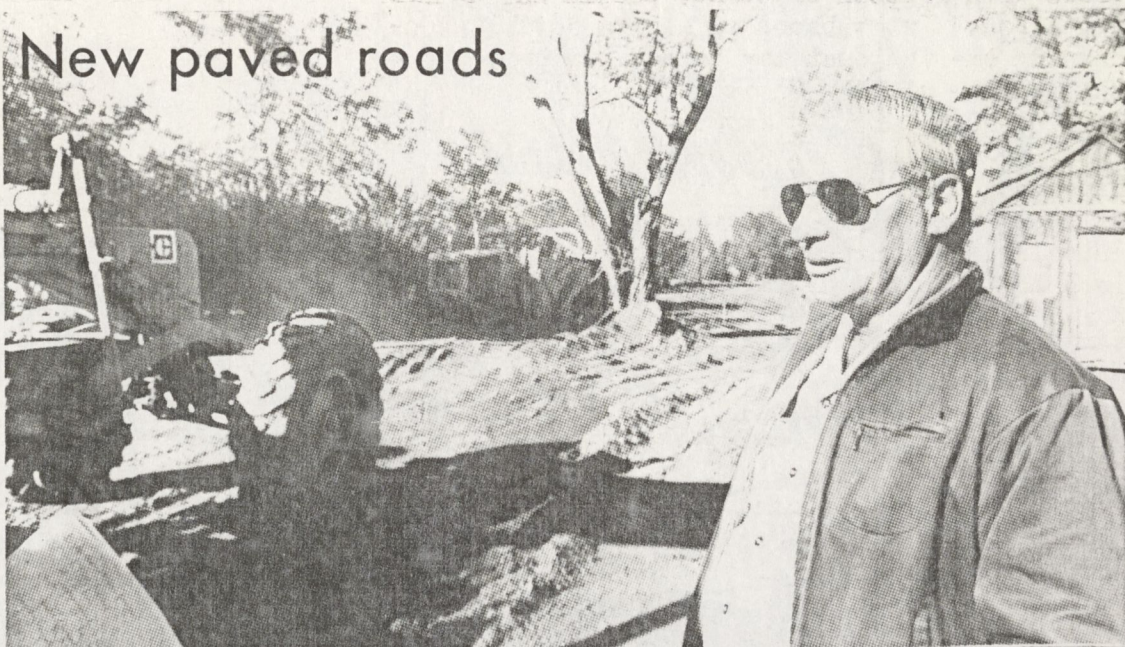
construction problems as yet undefined and unexplained came up, and little or no further work was done. It was to have been a tourist camping area originally scheduled to open more than a year ago.

A Tri-County Indian Health Project, affords Inyo a share of \$600,000 provided for

Inyo, Mono and Alpine Counties. This is in addition to other monies mentioned. The director of that project, Andy Anderson, says the clinic was started because health services were not available to Indians. "At one time, many doctors would not accept Medi-Cal or Medi-Care patients, and a lot of Indians were not comfortable going to the doctors." (Cont. P 16)

The Bureau of Indian Affairs will spend \$343,000 on road and street improvements at Independence. The BIA project is similar to that at Lone Pine two years ago, and in another two years a third paving program will begin at Big Pine. BIA Project Engineer George Smith said the Independence job will include 1.7 miles of paving.

New paved roads



Long overdue, aid to the Indian communities has provided many services and opportunities. But for many, life remains a matter of bare, simple necessity: fuel, food, clothing. Here, at Big Pine, two Indians work on a woodpile collecting and stacking wood that will mean warmth this winter.

DEPUTIES, Continued

ton issued a press release disclosing that the special investigation by the attorney general's office brought up no evidence to support disciplinary action against the two officers.

The two deputy sheriffs, Clyde George and Tom Gonzales (Gonzales is currently the president of the Inyo Deputies Association), came under a broad range of attacks after the incident came to light. A "town meeting" was held at Lone Pine and a small, but vocal, segment of the community lashed them, and law enforcement in general, in the days immediately following the arrests at the teenagers' home.

It now appears clear, if one accepts the findings of Attorney General Evelle Younger's investigator, that the officers acted within the bounds of the law and that their efforts at restraining the group of teen-agers - and later, some adults - were both legal and perhaps necessary.

The press release said "...the sheriff revealed that the report does not support any basis for disciplinary action against any of the officers involved. He added that the district attorney is reviewing the report to determine what action should be taken in connection with the arrests which the sheriff's deputies had made." Action on those arrests, including charges of assaulting an officer, was put into low gear pending outcome of the other investigation.

When he was questioned about events that took place at the Lone Pine home, the district attorney, L.H. "Buck" Gibbons, said he cannot now elaborate. "It's not appropriate to say what happened at this time. There are interviews with fifteen or twenty people who do not all agree." But Gibbons said some details concerning the incident may be available by early next week - and also a decision on the charges lodged against people arrested in the incident.

Meanwhile, the two officers involved have been transferred - for now at least - to duty at Independence. Whether they will eventually be returned to the Lone Pine "beat" is a matter still undetermined - and certainly a matter of time considering local attitudes.

NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

on the matter this week. His report: Members of the Indian community at Lone Pine voiced the opinion that the state should be thinking more about the American Indian, not about the Japanese, when it comes to programs.

And the Owens Valley School Board has indicated disfavor with the plan: Why, asks an area school superintendent, spend state money on Manzanar when Proposition 13 has cut education funds?

Others thought the plan a good one, and pointed to the "educational and historical" benefits, not to mention the boon to the Inyo County economy when state dollars flow into a construction site. Tourist value of the revitalized camp was also noted. But county officialdom rides the fence in the issue, still seeking more local input. Reporter Burns also pointed out that many in attendance at the "public hearing" expressed the feeling that already there are enough government agencies running Inyo without the addition of still another.

But as a matter of fact, the final decision may rest with the Department of Water and Power. DWP now owns the former prison

facility (although some hesitate to call it that), and it would be from DWP that the state parks people would have to lease the land for whatever plan may eventually evolve.

COUNTY EMPLOYEE MORALE has been a question long asked, but rarely answered in any meaningful way. Some time back, a questionnaire was circulated among members of the Inyo County Employees Association and now an ICEA spokesperson says the forms are returning in "great numbers." Although nobody is yet prepared to elaborate on the questions - and the answers that may prove highly controversial - it was not difficult to determine where the questionnaire was headed: At its opening, it reads in part: "...We understand there may have been many unhappy employees who finally left the county after many years of service. We would like to see where the problems lie and possibly improve conditions to prevent more employees from leaving the county. The personnel department has stated they feel everyone is happy working for the county since they never hear of any problems. This questionnaire is to find out exactly where everyone stands so the association can go from there." But even as the questionnaire was circulating, ICEA officials and members were stating privately exactly what they believe the answers will show: that the ongoing "Hiring firing problems rest squarely with an administration tendency to put pressure on politically undesirable employees, on employees who speak out about inefficiency and abuses, and about favoritism - or racism, or sexism, or cronyism - that has recently been part and parcel of county personnel procedure.

The board of supervisors meanwhile has requested that an association representative be present at the upcoming board meeting.

INCUMBENT SUPERVISOR WILMA MUTH received a special appointment this week, timed as it were perfectly for any candidate hoping to remain in office. And the appointment amounts to no small honor for Muth. She was named to a membership in the National Association of Counties Environment and Energy Steering Committee. "NACO" has a dozen such committees that set policy among counties across the country. The committee on which Muth will serve deals with matters of air, water and noise pollution control; solid waste disposal problems; conservation and preservation of water resources, etc.

TWO RAPE CASES were filed by Inyo investigators this week, one stemming from an incident at Bishop, the other at Furnace Creek, Death Valley's plush resort. In the latter, 27-year-old James Nimblett, a Furnace Creek employee, was charged with attempted rape and assault on a 43-year-old woman, a co-employee at the Furnace Creek Ranch. She had been taken to the hospital suffering what officers described as "a severe beating." In the other case, 25-year-old Ivan Garrison was jailed on two counts of assault with intent to commit rape - involving two elderly women. In the past he was charged in other minor offenses, including "paint-sniffing," which, like "glue-sniffing," can provide a narcotic effect.

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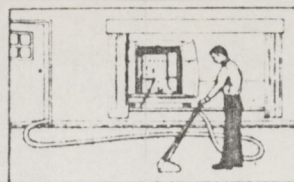
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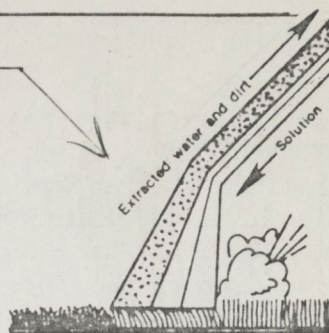


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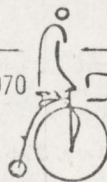
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the people'*

H.B. 'Lefty' Irwin hopes to contact every voter in the First Supervisorial District before the Nov. 7 election.

He has and will use his time to be a full-time supervisor if elected.

He has no job or business to interfere with his duties to the people...NO conflicts of interest.

He would like to use his business experience to make Inyo County government more efficient and less costly.

He wants a reasonable and controlled growth for Inyo County.



In his campaign for the First District Supervisorial seat, H.B. 'Lefty' Irwin contacts the people of the district by visiting them personally at their homes. Here he talks to a supporter, Ms. Ellen Evans, a native Inyo Countian.

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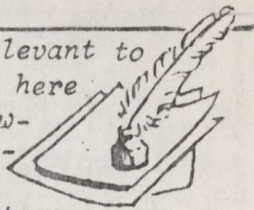
VOTE
Nov. 7



Elect
MOE JACOBSON
Supervisor, District 3



The News-Letter welcomes letters and comment relevant to current public issues. The editors will publish here those considered timely and stating concise viewpoints. Letters and statements should be addressed to PO Box 531, Independence 93526. The editors remind News-Letter's readers that publication of a letter does not necessarily imply either agreement with its content or a guarantee of its accuracy; it is FORUM's goal merely to encourage open discussion.



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ABUSES OF SANATORIUM PATIENTS: CHARGES OF A FORMER NURSE'S AIDE

Dear Miss Kessler -

I am writing this letter because I am very concerned for our elderly in the sanatoriums. I am a former aide for the Lone Pine sanatorium, until I quit. I was there for seven months, and during that time I have seen many abuses done to our elderly. For example: patients slapped in the face because they wanted milk; hair pulled; pinched; slugged; kicked; water thrown in their faces; head held under water during their bath; and cursed at by aides who say they are religious. There have been times when aides have come on a shift drunk or drinking heavily, and patients were force-fed when they weren't hungry.

There have been times when the nurse was too busy to give a patient medicine, so the aides were instructed to do so.

Not too long ago a dying man wanted oxygen, the nurse refused because we only had half a tank left - and makes a statement that he can die in the home because the county collects money for every person that dies in the home.

And yet, with all this going on, there is no one who wants to get involved. There is such a cover-up going on there, that the relatives don't even know, or don't care. The aides and housekeepers have seen this, but they don't want to say anything because they will lose their jobs. I wonder, if it were their parents getting this sort of treatment, what would happen then? They would not want to get involved!

- Shirley Jacobs
Lone Pine

(Editor's note: Over the past two years, rumors of such occurrences, and complaints about food, etc., have been common. And last week the board of supervisors received a similar letter from FORUM Contributor Jacobs. Upon receipt of the above letter, News-Letter Writer Bennett Kessler contacted Sanatoriums Director Mike Cosenza. He said that he has been unable to find "even one person who has been hurt." Cosenza also implied that Ms. Jacobs was to have been "terminated" from her job at the sanatorium when she quit ... And he also suggested that she had "a personal problem" with another member of the sanatorium staff. However, Jacobs remains firm in her charges of abuse of patients there, and in "off-the-record" comments named the staff members she says are guilty of such offenses. Meanwhile, the county supervisors, alarmed by the charges in Jacobs' letter, appointed a committee to investigate the situation: Board Chairman Richard McDonald, in whose district the sanatorium is situated; Supervisor Johnny Johnson; a member of the grand jury; a member of the county welfare department; and Cosenza himself. The committee is to investigate and report.)

INDIANS, Continued

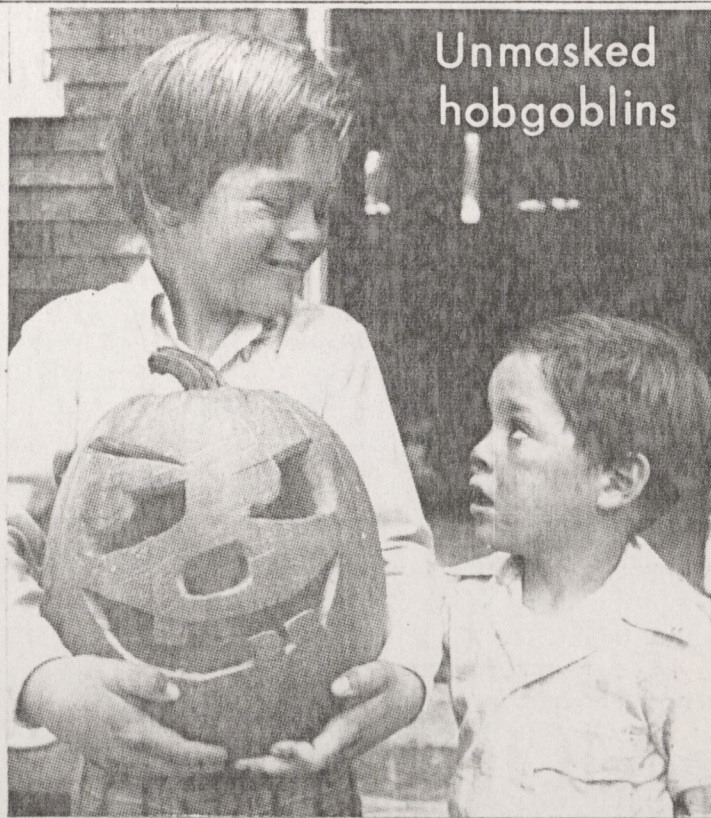
Housing is the best deal offered the Indians. A "couple," married or unmarried, may apply for a house providing anywhere from two to seven bedrooms. However, families are given first priority for housing. Once moved in, the occupant pays about \$30 or \$35 per month on a lease-purchase arrangement. Unbeknownst to a large number of "Anglos," the same arrangement is available to non-Indians in the county - if and when the county administration gets around to establishing a housing authority.

their projects are handled at lower levels and they deal in smaller money terms. At Big Pine, an Inter-Tribal Council director (not to be confused with Inter-Tribal Board), Judith Kinney, sees a \$25,000 expenditure for an area development office; and at Lone Pine another \$60,000 will foster a food program.

For the Big Pine tribe, \$19,000 will go toward a plumer - as part of a Big Pine Tribal effort to purchase some land from the Department of Water and Power. Lots of luck; if DWP deals more freely with the tribes than it does with others with its land, everyone will be surprised.

Of all the houses under construction, virtually none will mean anything to the tax-base of Inyo County. In the entire reservation system, very little "deeded" land exists that is taxable. For various county services (including \$110,000 paid this year for welfare alone), Indian property owners have paid into the county treasury "about \$1000," according to the tax office.

For American Indians, things have changed a lot since Wounded Knee.



Unmasked
hobgoblins

Chuck and Mike Mairs and Jack-o-lantern
These Independence boys, pictured eerily on News-Letter's cover, will join scores of other Inyo youths on the annual Trick-or-Treat outings.

Notes from B.K.

ALL THAT FACE-LIFTING YOU SEE GOING ON AT THE OLD EMBERS RESTAURANT IS MORE THAN skin deep; Embers' new owners, the Zakar family, bought out John Morris some time back, and went immediately to work. The "Embers" is going western, which is not altogether surprising, and will be called the "Mule City Trading Company." The present banquet room, long the center of many Inyo social and business gatherings, is quickly transforming into what Irene Zakar calls "an old-time saloon and dance hall" where, on Fridays and Saturdays, live music, presumably western and cowboy-rock, will be presented. Other areas separate from the saloon will be a dining room and a cocktail lounge. When the live musicians are not around, the saloon will dance to disco tapes - although it is as yet undisclosed whether these will also be of the country-rock variety. And who will the Embers, now re-incarnated as the Mule City Trading Company, cater to? Ms. Zakar says "We are trying to create a place for a variety of people." Zakar & company plan a "grand opening" near the end of November, give or take a week or so. From the looks of things it won't exactly be *Studio 54*, but then what place is?



BENETT KESSLER

DEPENDING ON WHERE YOU STAND WITH THE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, you may have views pro or con about its president, H.B. "Lefty" Irwin, now a supervisorial candidate running against Incumbent Herbert London. In any case, the POA will be out of it if he is elected. So spoke Irwin this past week. "Lefty" says if he wins he will resign his official duties with that organization which, Lefty believes, has served well and efficiently as a watchdog group over county procedures and spending. According to the best street surveys we can gather, it now looks like Irwin and London are running about neck-and-neck in that race. A close one. Says Lefty about his POA connection: "If I'm elected, I can't be a government-watcher and be a part of government too."

REMEMBER ALL THOSE KERN COUNTY "FARMERS" THAT CAME OVER HERE AS A DELEGATION to ask Inyo County to drop its groundwater suit so they could get more water from MWD, via DWP? Well, it turns out that at least one of them could hardly be characterized as an humble tiller of the soil suffering for lack of water. He is William E. Moore, Jr. who for four terms has served as president of the California Water Resources Association, a fact he failed to mention when he came on with his plea before the board of supervisors. He has a long-time record of deep involvement with the moguls of DWP and MWD, and apparently he was part of a ploy to make Inyo look like a water-grubbing, selfish water-hoarder in a time of drought and suffering on the part of the downtrodden Kern farmers. But in Kern County, "farmer" is hardly the word for it anyway. You can translate it into "agribusiness" or "corporate produce enterprises" that controls thousands upon thousands of highly-mechanized, big-business-directed acrea. None of these lost a crop, or even a dime, during the drought.

INCIDENTALLY, THAT ASSOCIATION recently announced it will create two new area directorships to include Inyo and Mono Counties. So far, however, no appointments, which is about par for the watercourse around here.

SO YOUNGER AND THE GUV FINALLY GOT TOGETHER IN A DEBATE - and then appeared on Face the Nation or Meet the Press or somesuch. Younger looks better than he did (the speechless candidate that earlier seems unable to say anything), but he made very few points with a certain tasteless rudeness he seems to have developed. Also, we still have no denial from Younger that he was involved in the "underworld" activities, and a lot of favors, with some Mafia types down south; the story came out in *New West* magazine recently.

THE MONO COMMITTEE IS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED, AS WELL IT SHOULD BE, watching the entire Mono Lake ecosystem go down the tube, or, perhaps more accurately, the aqueduct. The National Guard will have to be called in again - all this at taxpayer expense - to create still another channel between the Negit Island gull rookery, second largest in the world, and the all-too-close shoreline. Already, the coyotes and the snakes and rats have access to the island, and the nesting gulls (February) will be devastated. DWP is trying to look the other way, but one official admits "there is a problem."

A GROUP OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS FROM CHINA RECENTLY VISITED THE DWP SYSTEM in "an historic occasion" that DWP called "the first visit of this kind in more than three decades." I'm not clear about all this, but could it have anything to do with that story called *Chinatown*? Pun intended. All we need of course is a lot of Red Chinese poking about in our power system.

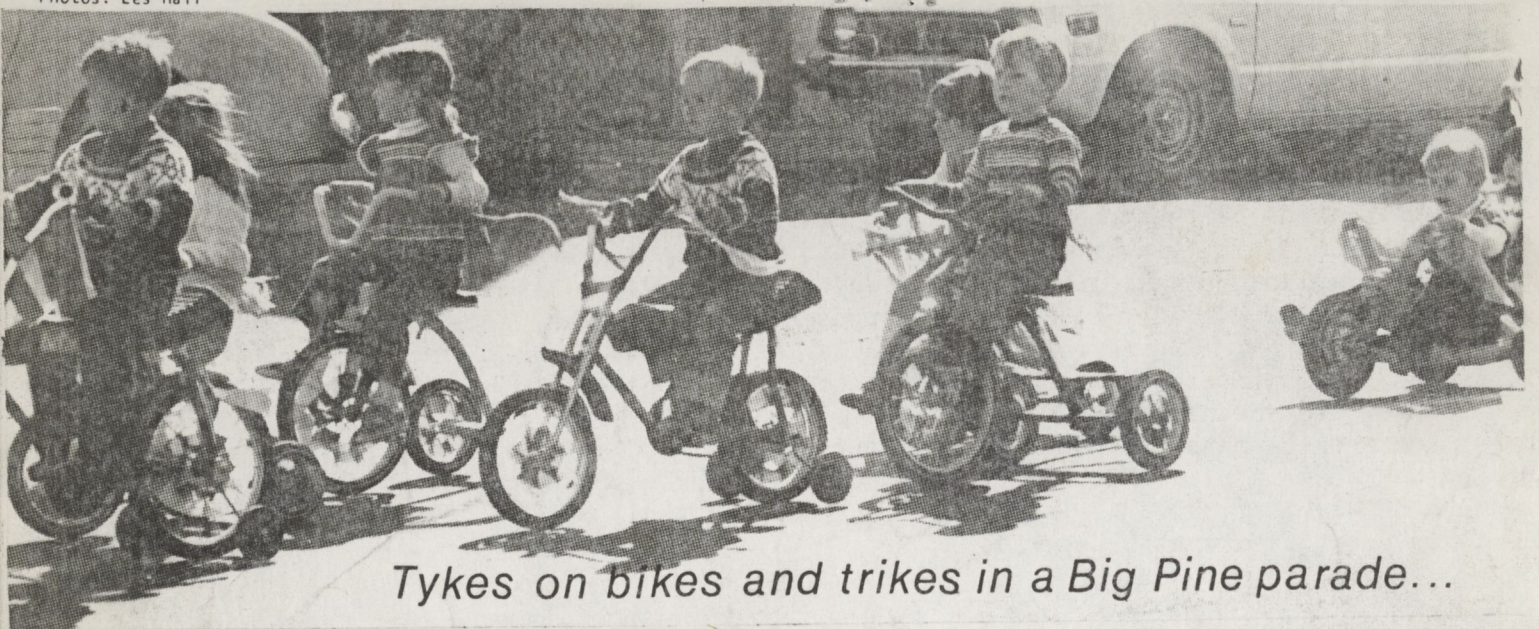
A BLM OFFICIAL AT RIDGECREST FINALLY ADMITTED IT: Politics in the Interior Department means tighter restrictions on federal lands; hence, all the "wilderness" fuss. He called it "an environmentalists' ballgame and politics."

THE TWO DEPUTIES HAVE BEEN CLEARED OF WRONGDOING in the "beating" incident at Lone Pine. An official release has been made in the matter. But still unclear, and not included in the release, is just what happened that night. Presumably, it will all come out in the court cases against the juveniles.

...AND MAY THE NEWS IN YOUR DAY be good news...every day.

Sincerely,

BK



Tykes on bikes and trikes in a Big Pine parade...



...and a pretty girl

As a popular institution in Inyo County football may be somewhat on the decline, thanks mostly to lower enrollments and due also to a re-emphasis on scholastic interest. But fan-fare and hoopla remain a big part of "homecoming" celebrations. That's what happened at Big Pine last week, and the town rolled out its fire trucks, its team - The "Warriors" - and most of the kids in town with enough crepe and paint to decorate a truck. A homecoming queen was chosen, along with a "court" of princesses, one of whom, Karen Browning, was clearly enjoying the honor. And for the Big Pine boosters, there was greater fun later on: Their "Warriors" trounced Rival Lee Vining.



...Warriors'...



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